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By:

Linda E. Hastings
LINDA E. HASTINGS

Any fee due as a result of this paper, not covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Acct. No. 50-1290.

Attorney Docket No.: NEKU 19.181 (100806-00056)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Eiki HASHIMOTO

Serial No.: 10/015,209

Filed: November 16, 2001

Title: **SEMICONDUCTOR CIRCUIT DESIGNING APPARATUS
AND A SEMICONDUCTOR CIRCUIT DESIGNING METHOD
IN WHICH THE NUMBER OF STEPS IN A CIRCUIT DESIGN
AND A LAYOUT DESIGN IS REDUCED**

Examiner: Annette M. Thompson

Group Art Unit: 2825

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

AMENDMENT

S I R :

In response to the Office Action mailed on September 2, 2003, the period for responding thereto having been set to expire after December 2, 2003, the period for response not being extended for more than one month, please amend the subject application as follows: